

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	27 June 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Superintendents update for June 2016	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Bob Warnock, Superintendent	

### Summary

This report seeks input from Members a review of the arrangements for consultation, and provides an update on management and operational activities across Hampstead Heath since March 2016.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Discuss and provide feedback on the contents of this report;

### Main Report

#### Consultation

1. Taking account of recent feedback from members of the public, and Members, the Superintendent invites a discussion around ensuring the Consultative Committee meetings and walks are as effective as possible in enabling the Committee to make "... representations to the Management Committee about any matter which, in the opinion of the Consultative Committee, affects or is likely to affect the Heath lands".
2. The past few years have been dynamic and sometimes challenging period for the Heath and its community and it is timely to reflect on this. To this end, the Superintendent would welcome Members' observations, insights and reflections on consultative arrangements.
3. In particular, the Superintendent invites consideration and feedback on the following matters:
  - Frequency of meetings and walks
  - Scheduling of meetings and walks
  - Location of meetings
  - Member input to shaping the annual reporting plan
  - Consultative Committee representations to the Management Committee.
4. In addition, the Superintendent welcomes further suggestions and initiatives to improve and enhance consultation with Consultative Committee Members and Heath users and communication between Consultative Committee Members and Heath users.

5. Having taken account of the input from Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee the Superintendent will report to the 18 July 2016 Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee to inform a further discussion regarding their meeting frequency, scheduling and location of the meetings.

### **Open Spaces Bill**

6. The Bill passed its initial parliamentary stages without debate and awaits detailed consideration by a Commons Committee. It is not yet clear whether this will take place before or after the Summer Recess.
7. Two petitions were submitted against the Bill. The City Corporation successfully challenged one of the petitions before the Court of Referees (a group of MPs who assess the validity of petitions), on the ground that it was not relevant to the Bill. The remaining petition is by the Kennel Club, and seeks the application of Freedom of Information law to the anti-social behaviour powers sought in clause 12 of the Bill. Discussions are taking place with the Club to see if its concerns can be addressed. If not, the Club's petition will be adjudicated on by the Commons Committee appointed to consider the Bill.

### **Hampstead Heath Management Plan**

8. Work on the management plan is progressing in accordance with the programme outline which was presented to Committee in March 2016.
9. Stage 1, the Review Stage, has commenced with consultation with staff to capture achievements and progress made towards the actions and goals set out in the 2007 Plan. This work is currently being summarised in a progress report.
10. To ensure continuity, past members of the working groups who were involved in developing the 2007 Plan are invited to form a Management Plan Review Advisory Group. The group will capture insights from the review of progress and discuss lessons learned over the past decade.
11. These will inform recommendations around the five themes for the development of the 2018 Plan:
  - measuring progress and achievements to date;
  - reviewing the structure of the plan and associated framework for delivery;
  - refreshing the objectives, actions and goals to ensure relevance in the current and future contexts;
  - fostering a spirit of shared stewardship;
  - adopting an outcomes-based approach.
12. Workshop details are currently being finalised with a date to be set for late July.
13. Following the Management Plan Review Advisory Group workshop, a report capturing achievements, lessons learned and recommendations will be prepared, with a report to the Consultative Committee in November 2016.

14. During the autumn the Project will move forward into Stage 2 - Defining Success. This will involve a programme of activities on the Heath throughout autumn which will engage with Heath users and the wider community to capture community aspirations for the Heath now and into the future.
15. Project stages and reporting milestones;

Project Stage	Milestones for reporting to Committees	Report to Committee
1. Review	Report summarising achievements of the past decade	November 2016
	Proposals for management framework and recommendation for 2018 Plan	
2. Defining Success	Report on community engagement and proposed vision for the Heath	March 2017
3. Developing the 2018 Plan	Draft 2018 Plan	July 2017
4. Finalising the 2018 Plan	Report on consultation on proposed 2018 Plan and recommendations	March 2018
	2018 Plan submitted for approval	

### Property update

3. Hoarding has been removed from around the Lido, and the palisade installation has been completed and the services along the wall are being reinstated.
4. Flooding has occurred at the back of the Lido in the café and gym. An existing ditch around the perimeter wall has been excavated to divert water around building, and repairs to a collapsed drain are currently underway. In addition, a Consultant has been commissioned to review the Lido field drainage provisions. The Superintendent will report further to the November Consultative Committee on this matter.
5. Following recent surveys the City Surveyor is working with a Consultant to design a solution to the surfacing and drainage issues at the Kenwood Nursery Yard. This will be discussed at the June Consultative Committee walk.
6. Contractors instructed by the City Surveyor are continuing to undertake investigations in the source of the water leak at the Lido and further testing to the delivery pipework around the children's slide may be required. Lido staff are continuing to monitor water usage to confirm the extent of the leak.

### Planning

7. Athlone House - A potential new owner of the site is currently working up revised proposals, with the intention of securing planning permission before finally exchanging on the property. Revised proposals for the site now intend to retain and restore the majority of the original dwelling that existed in 1948 and a very similar footplate. Basements have also been significantly reduced although

a basement wine cellar, plant room and swimming pool are nevertheless incorporated. The proposals will also see the restoration of some of the original external features of the building including Dutch Gables and castellations to the tower. A new single storey garden room is also proposed in similar brick to the existing building as well as a new access to reduce congestion. Parking will be located close to the Gate House and new landscaping will also see the restoration of ponds and a fruit terrace.

8. Initial visual montages, from 7 locations around Athlone House, suggest that the visual impacts of the new scheme will be significantly reduced compared to the previous schemes. Notwithstanding this it has also been agreed that an additional view of the proposals, from within the Heath itself, will also be considered. A Basement Impact Assessment, Tree Report and Construction Logistics Plan will also be submitted with the application in June 2016. The construction period is likely to be approximately 21 months – subject to planning consent. The Superintendent is making arrangements for the applicant to make a presentation of the proposals to the Consultative Committee.
9. Water House - The applications (ref. 2011/4390/P) were presented to the London Borough of Camden's Planning Committee on 7 April 2016. In advance of the meeting further detailed drainage comments, were submitted to demonstrate that the proposed drainage strategy is flawed. However, these reports were not considered by Officers in advance of the Committee Meeting. Despite making a further verbal representation at the Committee meeting to strengthen the reasons for refusal in terms of both trees and drainage the Committee decided not to make any changes. The application was, nevertheless, refused based on the original six reasons for refusal. The applicant has until 11 October 2016 to submit an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

### **Open Spaces Learning Team**

10. The Learning Programme has successfully delivered a new operating model and was successful in securing £400,000 over 3 years from City Bridge Trust. The new operating model has provided a strategic focus for learning through creating a single programme of work managed at a Departmental level. Through this operating model, the programme will be able to deliver increased opportunities for learning, volunteering and play across all the open spaces.
11. Recruitment of the new team across the Department has been a main focus of the programme between January-March 2016 and appointments have been made to all roles based on Hampstead Heath. A variety of internal and external appointments has resulted in a very high calibre team with a variety of specialisms, experiences and skills.
12. The Team is currently focused on developing more detailed project plans, engaging with the local communities we aim to work with, and developing the evaluation and monitoring framework. On Hampstead Heath, the Learning Team will be delivering:

- New natural play based sessions at the Clubhouse (previously the adventure playground) to help build understanding and confidence for young people.
  - New natural play based sessions at the One O'clock Club to support under-5s in developing confidence and wellbeing outdoors.
  - High quality sessions to primary schools at the Education Centre to increase understanding of our open spaces.
  - New curriculum focused sessions to engage with secondary schools to increase knowledge and involvement with our open spaces.
  - Successful 'ponds education project' sessions to contribute to the knowledge of our open spaces.
  - New 'wild play' sessions on the Heath aiming to engage under-5s and their parents with the natural environment through developing confidence and connection with both parents and their children.
  - New work with young people on skills development, increasing involvement and connecting with nature.
13. The new programmes at the Clubhouse and One O'clock Club were launched in the May half term and school sessions continue at the Education Centre. Our new wild play sessions and work with young people will begin in the summer holidays and autumn school term respectively.

#### **Heath Hands 2015/16 Update**

14. There are currently 144 active volunteers (with around 75% partaking in conservation tasks and around 15% in the Wild about Hampstead Heath Project). During 2015/16 there were 57 new volunteers recruited. Of these 77% have continued to volunteer.
15. 1,000 monthly volunteer hours has been achieved, a first in the history of Heath Hands.
16. The Hive continues to be well used for weekly sessions and training. Wild about Hampstead Heath sessions have continued throughout the winter, and activity levels are now picking up with the improving weather. Volunteer recruitment and retention of volunteers is a challenge for the Team.
17. Volunteer led conservation sessions have been launched at Whitestone Garden and in the Kenwood Education Garden. Other volunteer led projects are: hedgehog and reptile monitoring; invasive species control sessions, and a camera trapping project.
18. Heath Hands now offers conservation volunteering 7 days a week. The addition of Sunday sessions has been very positively received, although attendance has been low so far.
19. An annual volunteer opinion survey was launched in April, along with a new updated website. The social media presence of Heath Hands is increasing and a monthly e-newsletter has been successfully launched.

## **Hampstead Heath Viewpoint sign**

20. Following discussion with the Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in March 2016, artwork for the new skyline view point sign at Parliament Hill has been produced in conjunction with the Heath & Hampstead Society. The Project Team have finalised the statement acknowledging the donation by the Heath & Hampstead Society. The sign will be produced to replicate the design of the existing sign. From receipt of the order the production is expected to take approximately 6-8 weeks.
21. The Heath Ranger Team are finalising arrangements for removal of the current panoramic sign and installation of the replacement. This integrates with the landscape improvement works currently underway at the summit of Parliament Hill.
22. The panoramic sign will include a QR code that will direct visitors to a dedicated page on the City of London Corporation website with general information about the historic view as well as a link to the Heath & Hampstead Society website.

## **Benches**

23. Work on the memorial bench project continues with mapping completed across Parliament Hill Fields, Golders Hill Park, Heath Extension, Vale of Health and East Heath.
24. Work has commenced on updating records and contact details for memorial benches, with historic paper records being transferred to a bench sponsorship database.
25. The memorial bench scheme on the Heath continues to be oversubscribed with the waiting list currently containing 115 requests for a memorial bench with a waiting time of up to 10 years.
26. While the work continues, the Superintendent is proposing the waiting list is closed pending a more detailed report and recommendations to the Consultative Committee in November 2016.

## **Events**

27. The Hampstead Heath Whitsun Bank Holiday fair (28-30 May) was well attended, and feedback from members of the public attending was positive, despite the inclement weather.
28. The Parliament Hill Athletics Track hosted the Highgate Harriers Night of the 10k Personal Bests on 21 May. This event was the Men's and Ladies' trial for the Rio Olympics. The event was well attended and a great success. Live footage of the races was streamed over the internet.

## **Conservation**

29. The Superintendent will provide an update on the Cross Country restoration works at the meeting.
30. The Landscape Improvements to the Swains Lane entrance have been completed.
31. The Superintendent welcomes further feedback on the proposal to re-site the fencing approaching South End Green as discussed at the June Committee walk.

## **Projects**

32. The Superintendent will provide an update on current Projects.
  - Sports
  - Energy & Efficiency
  - Working Arrangements

## **Proposed Reports Agenda for November 2016 Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

33. The Superintendent invites feedback from Members regarding the proposed report agenda for the November 2016 meeting of this Committee.
  - Superintendents update
  - Management Plan Progress Report
  - Ponds Project Report
  - Proposed Hampstead Heath Memorial Bench Policy
  - Proposed East Heath car park surfacing and drainage plan
  - Lido field drainage proposals
  - Kenwood Yard surfacing and drainage proposals
  - Cafes outcomes from consultation
  - Proposed Fees & Charges
  - Review of Summer Events Programme
  - Review of the Annual Work Programme & the proposed 2017 Work Programme

## **Bob Warnock**

Superintendent

Open Spaces Department

T: 020 7332 3322

E: [bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk)